

(6) To the extent possible and consistent with Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes (the “Public Records Law”), it is the intent of this Order that all preliminary and ongoing investigative materials and information not be disclosed until such investigation is completed, at which time the Board shall issue its official findings and recommendations. To the extent the Board deems it necessary or advisable to enhance compliance with this Order and raise the level of ethical awareness in public service, the Board may periodically publish (either in complete or summary form) its official findings and recommendations made pursuant to third-party or Board-initiated complaint investigations. The Board shall forward a copy of its official findings and recommendations to:

- (a) the Public Official whose conduct is at issue;
- (b) the complainant (if applicable);
- (c) the head of the Agency in which the Public Official serves (which term includes the chair of each covered board) ;
- (d) the Governor for all gubernatorial appointees and employees in the Office of the Governor; and,
- (e) the official responsible for hiring or making the appointment of the person investigated.

(d) **Advisory Opinions**

The Board shall render advisory opinions as may be requested by any Public Official, any individual not otherwise a Public Official who is responsible for the supervision or appointment of someone who is a Public Official, Agency heads (which term includes the chair of each covered board), and legal counsel for covered Agencies or boards. The request shall be in writing and relate prospectively to real or reasonably-anticipated fact settings or circumstances. The Board shall issue advisory opinions having prospective application only. Advisory opinions are not intended to and shall not serve as substitute or *de facto* complaints against Public Officials for past conduct. Staff to the Board may issue advisory opinions under such circumstances and procedures as may be prescribed by the Board.

(e) **Ethics Education and Awareness Program.**

(1) The Board shall develop and implement an ethics education and awareness program designed to instill in all Public Officials a keen and continuing awareness of their ethical obligations and a sensitivity to situations that might result in real or potential conflicts of interest or appearances of conflict of interest.